THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

Statement

(b) and (c) Schemes for increasing production, sale and exports of handicrafts are implemented by the Government of India on an all India basis, and the State of Orissa also derives benefits out of these. Among the schemes which are operated by the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, the following are related to increased production or exports or contributing towards increasing production or increasing exports:—

1. Financial assistance to State Handicrafts Development Corporations, Apex Handicrafts Co-operative Societies and Voluntary Organisations for:—

(a) Setting up|expansion|renovation of emporia.

(b) Setting up raw material depots and Common Facility Service Centres.

(c) Setting up Craft Development Centres.

(d) Organising exhibitions-cum-sales in various parts of the country.

(e) Undertaking training programmes departmentally or through the above mentioned agencies.

2. Apart from the above, various export promotion measures including organising sales-cum-study teams, export delegations, buyer-seller meets etc. are undertaken. Export of handicrafts are also eligible for export assistance in the form of EXIM Scripts, duty drawbacks etc.

3. The Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has two Marketing and Service Extension Centres in the State of Orissa, located at Bhubaneshwar and Sambalpur. These Centres organise various promotional and developmental programmes such as Market Meets, Product Promotion Programmes, Craft Bazars, Melas etc.

4. The regional Design and Technical Development|countries including one at Calcutta for the Eastern region, help crafts-persons in evolving new designs and techniques to help boost their production and sales. The Craft Council of Orissa has been financially assisted for conducting surveys of handicrafts in the State.

Permission to Foreign Companies to carry cargo from one port to another

225. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allowed foreign liners to carry cargo from one port to another of the country;

(b) if so, the number of ships and quantum of cargo lifted by foreign liners since their inception;

(c) whether Government have estimated the loss in foreign exchange earnings and its effect on the earnings of Shipping Corporation of India as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to offset these losses

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) A policy decision has been taken to temporarily permit carriage of ISO containers from one Indian port to another by the foreign

shipping lines which bring substantial number of transhipment containers into the country.

(b) Does not arise as no firm order has been received till date.

(c) and (d) The impact, if any, of such temporary relaxation on Shipping Corporation of India will be closely monitored at the time of implementation.

Coal Handling Plant at Paradeep

226. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up a coal handling plant at Paradeep has been pending since long;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay;

(c) the expected time of the implementation of the above proposal; and

(d) the steps taken in the above matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) A number of alternative schemes to arrive at the least cost solution for coal transportation from Talcher mines to coastal thermal power stations were studied by RITES who gave their report in April, 1988. On the basis of the recommendations of this study, a comprehensive project report for the recommended alternative of rail-cum-sea transportation of coal from Talcher to Ennore through Paradip Port was prepared by Dutch Consultants whose final report was received in October, 1990. In consultation with the various concerned agencies, schemes for coal handling facilities at Paradip/ Ennore have been finalised.

(c) The facility at Paradip is expected to be completed within 4 years from the date of commencement of work.

(d) The proposal requires an investment decision by the Government. The case is being processed to obtain approval of Government.

Increasing hotel accommodation at Tourist spots in Orissa

227. SHRI JAGDISH JANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the hotel accommodation available in Orissa is very inadequate so that tourists have been facing a lot of problem particularly at the places of tourists spots; and

(b) if so, the details of steps being taken to provide adequate hotel accommodation in the Central sector to accommodate tourist visiting Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arse.

Reconstitution of Boards of Air India and Indian Airlines

228. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated to professionalise and debureaucratise the Boards of Management of the Air India and the Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the reconstitution of these Boards is long over due; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to reconstitute new Boards consisting of professionals?